



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

HEIKKILÄ et al

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Group:

National Phase of: **PCT/FI00/00067**

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Examiner:

For: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TREATING PULP**

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September 19, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above-identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the claims as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following amended 1 through 16 claims for corresponding claims previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

1. (Amended) A method of treating pulp, by which method pulp is discharged from a process apparatus and fed into a blow or storage tank, wherein the method comprises the steps of: feeding the pulp to an upper part of the tank and to a lower part of the tank depending on a consistency of the pulp being fed from said process apparatus in such a manner that pulp at a consistency below a certain predetermined consistency is discharged into said tank through the upper part of the tank and pulp at a consistency